



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

Volume 40, No. 10

# Yankee Engineer

July 2005



## Col. Thalken takes command

See story on page 6

# Yankee Voices

Diane Barszcz  
Westville Lake



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## On the Cover

*Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple passes the command flag to Col. Curtis Thalken during the New England District Change of Command ceremony, July 8 in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mass.*

## Congratulations

...to **Mathew Underwood**, Park Ranger, Ball Mountain/Townshend Lakes, and his wife **Heidi** on the birth of their daughter, **Delana Lee**, July 7.

...to **Dave Margolis**, Engineering/Planning, and his wife, **Kim**, on the birth of their son, **Ethan Samuel**. He joins his older brother, **Carter**, in the family circle.

...to **Cathy LeBlanc**, PPMD, who has been selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for July 2005. LeBlanc received the award for exceptional, timely and cost-effective preparation and submittal of the New England District FY07 Budget.

...to the **New England District FY07 Field Projects Budget Submittal Team** as Team of the Month for July 2005. The team was recognized for the exceptional, timely and cost-effective preparation and submittal of the FY07 Budget. Team members are **Janette Crawford**, **Allegra DiMuzio**, **Ethel Goyette**, **Claire Sullivan**, **Robert Tucker**, **Karen Wolfe**, **Cathy LeBlanc**, and **David Goodrich**.

## Sympathy

...to **Lang Nguyen**, Survey Section, on the passing of his mother, **Vinh Nguyen**, June 19.

...to the family of **Thomas J. Ober**, retired crew chief, Survey Section, who passed away June 24.

...to the family of retired Corps in New England secretary **Edith Pineo** who passed away July 19.

...to **Diana Errico-Topolski**, Park Ranger at Hop Brook Lake on the passing of her mother, **Joy Errico**, July 25.

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# Commander's Corner.

## Working as a team, acting like a family

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken  
District Engineer



It has now been nearly a month since my arrival and I would like to first thank everyone for the way they have welcomed my family and I into the District. In fact, one of my first observations has been that everyone in the District treats others like extended family members. In my experience, organizations that believe they are a family tend to be superior performing organizations. On the surface,

this may seem at odds with the current emphasis on a “networked workplace,” but I believe that the ideas of a family and a network are actually very compatible.

For instance, the Department of Defense Inspector General’s Office just completed an audit of our Superfund activities. They did not find a single concern or correction necessary within the program. This cross-departmental success was only possible because of the efforts of individuals from throughout the organization all working together with a common objective and vision for success. This example of a successful “matrixed operation” is really no different than the members of a family pulling together for the good of the entire family. In a family where everyone understands the goals, everyone shares in the work and shares in the rewards.

Families stand together during good times and in adversity. Arguably during periods of adversity, unity is its greatest and petty squabbles are forgotten in the effort to meet the family’s needs. This is really the goal of USACE 2012. An interdependent workforce depends upon collaboration among individuals

and organizations to ensure the best support to our customers and the lowest cost.

Additionally, the robust nature of a networked agency protects the elements of the organization because they are not required to stand alone. Many individuals have tried to “bring down” the Internet, but all have failed. The very networked nature of the system allows it to “heal,” as nodes within adapt to support those directly attacked. Likewise in an era of uncertainty, with unpredictable funding and workloads, an interdependent organization enables the healthy elements of the organization to assist the ailing and the under committed to assist the overburdened. Once again this sounds like the role of a family.

Here within the New England District, we too face challenging times. As I have previously mentioned to you all, we must attempt innovative solutions to buffer the uncertainties of the future. We will be required to move outside of our “comfort zones,” but in doing so we will increase the capabilities of individuals and the organization as a whole. Opportunities exist, like support to our fellow districts and cross leveling of personnel within the District that will not only allow us to weather the immediate storm, but to emerge healthier for the future. But once again this is what families do: they take care of each other so that all may prosper.

In conclusion, thank you again for accepting me into the New England family and by implementing the tenets of USACE 2012 I believe we can only make our family stronger. Yet, no one person in a family has the monopoly on good ideas and I look forward to discussing with you all what you believe the future holds for us and how we can structure our family to be postured to meet the emerging needs the future will require of us. Essayons!

## Regional Teams are the way of our future

by Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple  
North Atlantic Division Engineer

The North Atlantic Division is where the Corps performed its first mission. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington received word that the British were coming to invade and authorized the first unofficial Corps engineer to establish fortifications in New York. Shortly after, other defenses along the northeast would be successfully established to protect our new nation.

As we begin the 21st Century, the Corps continues to

respond to national requirements to successfully fortify our American way of life and our organization. In recent years, we received word from our customers that they didn’t always feel like part of the team.

In response, the Corps established USACE 2012, a new way of doing business that includes the customer together with Corps counterparts to form more effective teams.

The North Atlantic Division has shown that this can be a win-win situation for the Corps and our customers, as well as fortify our future.

*Continued on page 12*



# District Engineer bids farewell to Corps, Army during retirement ceremony

*With one of the country's most historic buildings as a backdrop, the Corps of Engineers, New England District Engineer bade farewell to his employees and retired from the U.S. Army.*

A retirement ceremony for Col. Thomas Koning was held July 8 at Faneuil Hall, Boston. In front of hundreds of New England District employees, friends, and family members, Col. Koning retired with 25 years of service to his country.

Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, served as Master of Ceremonies and welcomed everyone to the event. "Col. Koning's dedication, devotion to duty, leadership and loyalty have been a source of pride to all," he said. "We are proud to have had the opportunity to serve with him."

Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, North Atlantic Division Engineer, joined Col. Koning at the front of the stage for the awards and retirement presentations. Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer, took to the podium to read the citations of the numerous awards Col. Koning received.

As the audience stood, Brig. Gen. Temple presented Col. Koning with his first award – the Legion of Merit.

"Col. Koning displayed extraordinary leadership and professionalism in directing over 500 military and civilian personnel in the accomplishment of a wide-range of civil and military missions in the six state New England Region," read Lt. Col. Nelson. "He firmly maintained the Corps' reputation for quality service to the public throughout his command."

After receiving the Legion of Merit, Brig. Gen. Temple presented Col. Koning with his official retirement certificate, relieving him from active duty in the grade of colonel, and his retirement medal.



Photos by C.J. Allen

**Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple presents Col. Thomas Koning with the Silver de Fleury medal.**

Lt. Col. Nelson transitioned the event from the official retirement ceremony to the recognition portion of the ceremony by reading the history of Col. Koning's next medal – the de Fleury – while Brig. Gen. Temple presented the now retired District Engineer with the award. Col. Koning received The Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal "for exceptionally meritorious service to the Engineer Regiment, in multiple positions of increasing responsibility, throughout a career of service spanning over 25 years, culminating in his assignment as the Commander and District Engineer of the New England District."

Presentations by Ellen Roy-Herzfelder, Secretary of the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs, and Robert Varney, Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency followed the de Fleury medal presentation.

Lt. Col. Nelson then read proclamations from Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell and Rhode Island Governor Donald L. Carcieri both proclaiming July 8, 2005 as United States Army Corps of Engineers Day in their states. Governor Carcieri also extended his formal greeting honoring Col. Koning for his service to Rhode Island.

James W. Hunt, III, Chief of Environmental and Energy Services for the city of Boston hand carried a surprise presentation from Boston Mayor Thomas Menino to the retirement ceremony. Hunt read a proclamation by Mayor Menino marking July 8, 2005 as Col. Thomas L. Koning Day in the city of Boston.

Col. Koning also received citations from Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Maine Governor John Baldacci, and New Hampshire Governor John Lynch, commending him for his service to New England and congratulating him on his retirement.

Congressman Robert Simmons of Connecticut sent a personal letter and a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in honor of his retirement from the U.S. Army and thanking him for "25 years of invaluable service."

Congressman James Langevin of Rhode Island also sent a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, which praised his 25 years of service. The document offered congratulations and best wishes on Col. Koning's retirement.

Fran Donovan, Larry Davis and Roger Mathurin of the Cape Cod Canal made the final presentation to Col. Koning by presenting him with a picture of the Cape Cod Canal and a framed District flag.

In the military, it is not just the officer that retires, but also his family. Several presentations were made to Mrs. Laura Koning for her service and sacrifice over the past 25 years. Brig. Gen. Temple presented Mrs. Koning with the Commander's Award for public service and the Army Certificate of Appreciation.

Mrs. Koning received the certificate of appreciation for "her own unselfish, faithful and devoted service. Her unfailing support and understanding helped to make possible her husband's lasting contribution to the Nation."

Mrs. Koning received the Commander's Award for her dedicated and exceptional service as an Army spouse, teacher and community volunteer. Her service "has provided a tremen-



*Mrs. Laura Koning receives applause from Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple and Col. Thomas Koning during the retirement ceremony.*

dous positive influence on countless families and soldiers and is a shining example of selfless service."

After making the awards presentation, Brig. Gen. Temple told the audience that with Col. Koning's retirement, the nation is losing a great military leader. "Tom Koning has had an exceptionally significant impact on the Army over a 25-year career that spans numerous assignments in various units and organizations," he said. "We thank him for his service."

The Division Engineer also thanked the Koning family, Laura and children, Claire and Paige, for supporting Tom Koning in his career choice. "Family support is vital in a soldier's life," he said. "A strong family unit is the backbone of an effective Army. Thank you for your unwavering support to the Army and the nation these many years."

Brig. Gen. Temple concluded by congratulating Col. Koning on his retirement and wished the family all the best.

Col. Koning had a few parting words for the attendees. "As I look back over these last three years in New England, I am honored to have served with each of you whether here in Concord Park or in our many field locations," he said. "I have enjoyed being with you as you enjoy what you do, are driven, dedicated

and passionate about coming to work, and try to get the right thing accomplished everyday. This is a characteristic that sets you apart from most other organizations. This climate has made it easy for me to lead the kind of team-oriented environment that is here in the District."

The newly retired District Engineer concluded by wishing everyone well and promising to come back to New England to visit. "I will miss New England and all of you," he said. "I had been told that being the DE would be the best job of my career – and I have given it my best. It has been the best and I thank you for all of it."

Rosenberg concluded the retirement ceremony by saying, "We of the United States Army Corps of Engineers are proud to have served with Col. Koning and we wish him and Mrs. Koning continued success and Godspeed. He received a long-lasting standing ovation with thunderous applause from those in attendance. Col. Koning has taken a position with Zapata Engineering, and he and his family have moved to North Carolina to begin their lives as civilians.

Prior to his retirement ceremony, Col. Koning hosted a reception open to all attendees in Faneuil Hall's Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts Armory.





Photos by C.J. Allen

*Historic Faneuil Hall in Boston serves as backdrop for the New England District Change of Command ceremony.*

# Change of Command

## District command transfers from Col. Koning to Col. Thalken

The military tradition of changing from one New England District commander to another continued in the finest tradition of the U.S. Army at Boston's Historic Faneuil Hall, July 8.

Hundreds of New England District employees, retirees, former District Engineers, Congressional representatives, a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, heads of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as friends and family attended the historic event where Col. Thomas Koning relinquished command of the District to Col. Curtis Thalken. Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple presided over the ceremony.

The Change of Command ceremony emphasizes the continuity of leadership and unit identity despite changes in indi-

vidual authority – and also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another.

Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, served as master of ceremonies. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been serving New England since April 26, 1775 which was seven days after the first shots of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington," he said. "On that monumental day, Col. Richard Gridley became the 'chief engineer of the forces for the defense of the rights and liberties of the American continent.'"

Rosenberg continued by recognizing the Koning and Thalken families. Eva Marie D'Antuono, one of the District's emerging leaders, presented Mrs. Laura Koning with a bouquet of blooming red

roses, which represent a flourished and successful command. Trudy Vinger, New England District's newest team member presented Mrs. Carolyn Thalken with a bouquet of budding white roses, which represent how her relationship with the New England team and their families will flourish. "As everyone knows, a successful soldier is always supported by a loving family," said Rosenberg. "We want to recognize two important members of the New England District Team."

The master of ceremonies named the various awards and proclamations received not only for the outgoing commander, Col. Koning, but also the incoming commander, Col. Thalken. He then went on to read the proclamations from



*Official party take positions for Change of Command.*



*Bill Scully gives command flag to Col. Thomas Koning.*



*Col. Koning passes flag to Brig. Gen. Temple relinquishing his command.*

the governors from the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The actual changing of the command flag from one commander to the other followed the recognitions. The senior civilian of the organization, Mr. William Scully, passed the unit colors to the outgoing commander, Col. Koning, signifying the unit's appreciation for his leadership and guidance.

Col. Koning then passed the colors to the senior commander, Brig. Gen. Temple, which signified the relinquishment of his command and the gratitude for the opportunity to lead the Civilians and Soldiers of the District.

Brig. Gen. Temple passed the color to the incoming commander, Col. Thalken, entrusting him with the responsibility and care of the District. After the orders, which gave him command of the District were read, Col. Thalken then passed the colors back to Scully, signifying the trust and confidence in the leaders of the organization.

Brig. Gen. Temple addressed the audience following the Change of Command. He reminded them that the ceremony was taking place at a time when the situation of the world was uncertain. We're holding this change of command while the nation is at war," he said. "Let's not forget that fact. We must maintain our vigilance and support the needs of the Army and the nation in the Global War on Terrorism. Our brave service members and Civilians overseas face danger 24 hours a day. We must do our best to support them. Our prayers and thanks go out to them and for their safety and that of their families."

The Division Engineer said that all four of the New England District's officers and 28 civilians have served overseas supporting the War on Terror over the past three years. He also discussed the tradition of service in the District that dates back to the birth of the Corps in 1775 and continues today.

Summing up Col. Koning's career with the New England District, Brig. Gen. Temple touched on some mile-

*Continued on next page*



*Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple presents the command flag to Col. Curtis Thalken.*



*Col. Curtis Thalken becomes the new commander of the New England District.*



*Col. Curtis Thalken returns the flag to Bill Scully for safe keeping.*



# District command transfers from Col. Koning to Col. Thalken

*Continued from previous page*

stones such as the 50th Anniversary celebration of Mansfield Hollow in Connecticut, the completion of the New Bedford Superfund Dewatering facility in Massachusetts, and the completion of dredging in Rhode Island Sound. "In addition to this very impressive record of accomplishment, Col. Koning and the New England District team will likely be most remembered for have faced many challenging issues of national importance in the past three years -- salmon aquaculture, wind farms, liquefied natural gas facilities, dredge disposal needs, and many more," he said.

Brig. Gen. Temple expressed appreciation to Col. Koning for his years of service and for his work with the Corps of Engineers.

"The challenges that face a District Engineer are many," he said. "The breadth of responsibility is great -- managing people, projects, funds, working with partners, federal and state and local agencies, customers and congressional representatives. Thank you for your hard work and many sacrifices during the past three years Colonel Koning. And a big thank you to your family, your wife Laura and children Claire and Paige for their loving support during these chal-

lenging years. Thank you for a great job done in accomplishing the many diverse missions of the District."

The general concluded his remarks by welcoming the 32nd Commander of the Corps of Engineers in New England. "Your challenge, Colonel Thalken, is to meet the needs of the District, working with the regional team, while prioritizing where you can and making the best use of your budget and resources," he said. "As you take up the flag of the Corps New England District remember that you follow in the footsteps of many distinguished military commanders dating back to the birth of the Army, the Corps, and the nation during the Revolutionary War."

In his official act as District Engineer and as an Army Officer, Col. Koning expressed his gratitude to the New England District team. "I cannot say enough about the great and talented group of people that I had the honor to lead in this District," he said. "Individually and collectively they are superb in the effort they put forth every day on behalf of the projects, permits and issues they deal with. I loved leading Soldiers and being a Soldier for 25 years. Soldiers are great people, but this group of Army Civilians -- this group of Corps employees in the New England District are the best."

Col. Koning said that he found it hard to leave the District. "I leave today with mixed feelings," he said. "This assignment has been personally and professionally challenging to me, and the successes we have achieved are most gratifying. While the accomplishments at the New England District over the past three years have been many, there are still challenges left ahead for the new commander. Col. Thalken is well qualified to address the challenges ahead as he leads this organization into the future."

The colonel wished the Thalken family an enjoyable tour in New England and wished the New England District team good health and much happiness. He concluded by thanking his family "for sticking with me through 17 moves, 10 states, eight schools, and 25 years on making a home where the Army sent you."

Col. Thalken addressed the audience and said he was ready to meet the challenge of commanding the District. "Your tradition of support to the nation and New England is nearly as old as the nation itself," he said. "The District's reputation for excellence far exceeds its geographic area of responsibility. During times of peace and war, the District has stood tall and proudly shouldered its responsibilities. I look forward to helping you all carry that load in the future."

The New England District Ranger Color Guard, under the direction of Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer, posted and secured the colors during the ceremony. Members are Joe Faloretti, Mike Curran, Merl Bassett, Rick Magee and Bob Hanacek.

Lt. Col. Glen Rodgers, Wing Chaplain from Hanscom Air Force Base performed the invocations both at Col. Koning's retirement and Change of Command ceremony.

The Colonial Brass Band, part of the U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty, performed patriotic musical selections during the Change of Command.



*The New England District Ranger Color Guard, led by Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, post the colors at the beginning of the Change of Command ceremony.*



## Change of Command Photo Album

July 8, 2005



*Larry Rosenberg and Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple go over the days events at Faneuil Hall.*



*Mrs. Laura Koning admires her Commander's Award during Col. Koning's retirement ceremony.*



*The retirement ceremony attendees give Col. Thomas Koning a standing ovation.*



*Col. Thomas Koning and his wife, Laura, say good-bye to friends and employees before they move onto their new lives as civilians.*



*Mr. and Mrs. William Koning, Col. Thomas Koning's parents traveled across the country for the retirement ceremony and Change of Command.*



*Rob Paine, Col. Thomas Koning, and Mike Bradbury pose for a photo during Col. Koning's retirement reception. Bradbury is a retired Deputy District Engineer.*





## Change of Command Photo Album

July 8, 2005



*Mrs. Laura Koning receives flowers in appreciation for her years of support.*



*The U.S. Air Force Colonial Brass Band entertain guests prior to the Change of Command ceremony.*



*Members of the Cape Cod Canal Field Office present Col. Thomas Koning with gifts of appreciation during his retirement ceremony.*



*Mrs. Carolyn Thalken receives a bouquet of roses welcoming her to the District.*



*Col. Thomas Koning, Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple and Col. Curtis Thalken talk after the Change of Command ceremony.*



*Ellen Roy-Herzfelder, Secretary of the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs, presents Col. Thomas Koning with a certificate of appreciation.*



## Change of Command Photo Album

July 8, 2005



*Col. Curtis Thalken Commander and District Engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England.*



*Col. Curtis Thalken and his family cut a cake during the meet and greet reception at Concord Park after the Change of Command.*



*District employees and well-wishers welcome the Thalken family to New England.*



*Reception attendees enjoy sweets and punch.*



*The Thalken family poses for a picture during the Meet and Greet reception at Concord Park.*



*District employees wait for their chance to meet the new District Engineer and his family.*

# Regional Teams are the way of our future

*Continued from page 3*

## USACE 2012

USACE 2012 is encouraging us to work more like a business and less like a hierarchical organization.

Traditionally, we have worked primarily as stand alone elements. Now we are working more as regional teams composed of members from many districts, other divisions and our customers. This doesn't mean employees are being relocated to form these teams. Instead, we are working virtually through the use of various communication technologies.

### North Atlantic Division

These regional teams are fully supported by Regional Business Centers that are operated by each of the Corps eight Divisions and headquarters.

The North Atlantic Division's regional business center supports its six districts that include -- New England District, New York District, Philadelphia District, Baltimore District, Norfolk District and Europe District.

The Division has 3,926 employees that perform civil works and military missions as well as environmental, support for others and emergency response services for 62 million people in the northeast United States and 51 other countries.

Even before the USACE 2012 initiative, the North Atlantic Division had been forming regional teams and we continue to show that teamwork works.

### Why form regional teams?

There are many benefits for both the Corps and our customers to working in regional teams because they:

- Produce better projects – Having the flexibility to tap the best people for the job from several districts ensures a better quality project for the customer.
- Save money – When you have the

right people on the job projects are produced correctly from the start and money is not wasted on correcting problems.

- Save time – Because our organization is working more vertically and laterally rather than hierarchically, project issues are resolved early on in the project process.
- Improve employee skills – Team members are exposed to the expertise of their fellow members, which enhances their own skills.
- Share lessons learned – Team mem-

the outside and keeps the work in-house.

- Regional teams are our future
- We face new challenges in the coming years and like in the past we will respond to them to fortify our organization. Our new way of doing business will help us do this. Regional teams will enable us to:
- Work with a limited 2006 budget – Regional teams composed of skilled experts are economical. The team resolves problems early in the process. In addition, the team eliminates the need to hire

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**'Even before the USACE 2012 initiative, the North Atlantic Division had been forming regional teams and we continue to show that teamwork works.'**

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**-Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple, Division Engineer**

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bers share lessons learned with one another that benefit present and future projects.

- Provide support system – Team members that temporarily leave projects, for personal or other reasons, are supported by other skilled members that can step in for them.
- Improve customer communication – Since customers are team members there is improved communication with them that helps the Corps better meet their needs.
- Sustains Core Capability – When you have the expertise from several districts this reduces the need to hire from

from the outside because all of the expertise needed for the project is within the team.

- Sustains core capabilities – Regional teams composed of skilled experts sustains our core capabilities. When the team possesses all of the expertise there is no need to hire assistance from the outside keeping the work in-house. In addition, when the customer is a part of the team we are improving our relationship with them, which ensures we are meeting their needs and will be their first choice for future collaborations.

*(JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D., New York District, contributed to this report.)*

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# Founder's Day 2005



Special pull-out section



*Five year certificate*



*Ten year certificate*



*15 year certificate*



*20 year certificate*



*25 year certificate*



*30 year certificate*

# Founder's Day

## District celebrates 230 years with awards, picnic

***Employees of the New England District celebrated the Corps' 230th birthday during the Founder's Day award ceremonies and picnic, June 24.***

Approximately 200 employees, retirees and family members started the day by gathering under the ceremonial tent at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base to recognize outstanding achievements and lengths of service.

Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, welcomed the crowd and presented a brief history of the birth of the Corps of Engineers.

"On June 16, 1775, Col. Richard Gridley, a native of Boston, was named Chief Engineer of the newly formed Continental Army by Commander-in-Chief Gen. George Washington," said Rosenberg. "Col. Gridley designed and supervised the construction of an earthwork on Breed's Hill overlooking

Boston Harbor that proved to be impregnable against the British Army during the fierce battle the following day."

Rosenberg continued the story by stating that the Patriots lost the position after running out of ammunition. "But that doesn't matter because the Battle of Bunker Hill, which is what it is called today, marks the beginning of a long tradition of service in New England that the Corps of Engineers continues to day."



*35 year certificate*

Photos by C.J. Allen



*2005 Planners of the Year*



*June 2005 Team of the Month*





*Don Hassett*



*Mike Keegan*



*Barbara Duffin*

The Chief of Public Affairs talked about recent accomplishments of the New England District employees and the many missions they take on to serve the public, both professionally and personally.

Rosenberg also recognized the District's new employees who have arrived since the last Founder's Day celebration.

Following Rosenberg's remarks, Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, took to the podium for the last time as Commander of the organization and thanked everyone for coming to celebrate the birth of the Corps.

The District Engineer asked people to take a moment to remember the employees who have recently retired as well as the retirees who have passed listed in the Founder's Day brochure

and their service to the nation.

Col. Koning said that his Founder's Day address would be his last official speech before his retirement from the U.S. Army and that he enjoyed working with the employees of the District. "It was an honor to work with every one of you because you are a tremendous group of civilians," he said.

Citing the results of PRB and Senior Leader's meetings, Col. Koning said that the District has accomplished great things.

He said he was proud of the projects that the people of the District have accomplished such as the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge Rehabilitation Project, and the many dredging projects that are performed regularly.

Col. Koning talked about the District's successful environmental pro-

gram and the good working relationships the organization has with other federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency. "Some of our projects are award winners," he said. Environmental projects performed under the District's Work for Others mission include Smelt Hill Dam and Lonsdale Drive-in.

The District Engineer said that he was proud of the outreach that District employees perform and that some of the projects are controversial and emotionally charged. "Outreach promotes good government," he said. He concluded his remarks by saying he would see everyone again after he retires.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management inducted Ralph Mallardo into the Distin-

*Continued on next page*



*Donna Russell*



*Chris Lindsay*



*Paul Howard*



*Bob Hanacek*



*2005 Supervisor/Team Leader of the Year*



*Bill Scully introduces the 2005 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee.*

## District celebrates 230 years with awards, picnic

*Continued from previous page*  
gished Civilian Gallery. See story on page F.

John Kennelly, Engineering/Planning named Mark Habel and Sue Holtham as Planners of the Year for 2005. It is the first time that a joint award of this kind has been given. Habel and Holtham received the honor for their tireless and exceptional work on the Environmental Impact Statement to support EPA's designation of disposal sites at Long Island Sound.

The document, according to Kennelly, took about six years to create and has received strong support from

Connecticut and strong opposition from New York. "It is a bulletproof EIS," he said.

The document was completed earlier this year and after much negotiation, the sites were designated in June.

Dianna Barela, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, and Heather Sullivan, Federal Women's Program Manager, named Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, as the New England District Supervisor/Team Leader of the Year.

Rosenberg received the award for fostering family-friendly work environments, providing work challenges and

developmental opportunities that provide career growth for all of his employees.

Joe Bocchino and Col. Koning presented the District achievement and honorary awards.

Don Hassett received the Army Achievement Medal for his service in Iraq.

Paul Howard received the Army Achievement Medal for his work during the Hurricane Ivan Disaster response.

Ken Paton and Bob Hanacek received Commander's Awards for Civilian Service for their service in Iraq.

Donna Russell and Kevin McKelvey



*Bob Govero sets up for the awards ceremony.*



*Children receive balloon animals at the Founder's Day picnic.*



received letters of appreciation for their work as counselors.

Mike Keegan received two certificates of appreciation – one from Memphis District and one from Wilmington District -- for work during the Hurricane Ivan Disaster Response.

Barbara Duffin received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Air Force Reserve for the Real Estate leasing work she performed in support of their recruiting mission.

Jerry Stalder, WE Committee Chair, presented Brian Murphy with the June Employee of the Month. Murphy received the award for his work on the Cape Wind Permit Application web site.

The Take Your Daughters and Sons Educational Team was recognized for its exceptional support of the District's Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Team members include Barbara Blumeris, Jacqueline DiDomenico, Patricia Sumner, Sheila Harvey, Julie Mackley, Alex Garneau, Carol Charette, Meredith Cavanagh, Sean Walsh, Scott Michalak, Brian Murphy, Bonnie Ortiz and Bobby Byrne.

Kim Kaminski-Donaher and Col. Koning presented Length of Service awards to those who have served for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years. For a complete list of award recipients, please see the 2005 Founder's Day brochure.

With all the presentations and awards distributed, Scully went over the list of activities available for young and old alike.

Activities this year included a fire truck demonstration, basketball, volleyball, badminton, wheelbarrow races, three legged races, sack races, water sponge ball toss, croquet, horseshoes (for kids) and Frisbees.

In addition to the activities, Mr. Jack's catering prepared a catered meal of barbecue foods for those who bought tickets for lunch.

Retirees who attended Founder's Day this year were Ralph Mallardo and fellow Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Andy Lamborghini.



*Mary Christopher paints a flag on the arm of a child during the Founder's Day picnic.*



*Founder's Day participants enjoy a pickup basketball game.*



*A fire truck demonstration was only one of the many activities held at Founder's Day.*

# Distinguished Civilian Gallery

## Mallardo inducted during Founder's Day ceremonies

*Ralph Mallardo, retired Finance Officer, Resource Management, has been inducted into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery. The induction took place during the annual Founder's Day ceremonies, June 24, at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base. Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, performed the induction.*

With his wife Karen at his side, Mallardo accepted the honor as the 92nd member of the gallery. He thanked those who nominated him, the people on his staff and his supervisors. "It's an honor," he said. "I miss working with the Corps. It was great to be a part of a great organization."

Mallardo became the New England Division's Finance and Accounting Officer in 1986, 18 years prior to his retirement in 2004. In total, he served 34 years in the federal government with 29 years spent with the Corps in New England.

At the peak of the Finance and Accounting Centers' operations, Mallardo oversaw the activities of more than 80 employees and was responsible for disbursing as much as \$500,000,000 annually.

The professional oversight and services that he provided extended to more than just New England. His disbursement and financial responsibilities included the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, North Atlantic Division, New York District and Philadelphia District. Mallardo conducted business for much of the North Atlantic region before there even was a business region.

According to the nomination package, Mallardo was instrumental in the successful transition from the old Corps of Engineers Management Information System batch mode Finance and Accounting System to the current real time Corps of Engineers Financial Management System.

He was also a critical and key player in the changes that were brought about as the Corps moved from district based finance centers to a National Finance and Accounting Center. In both of these major areas, the impacts to the organization and the changes that ultimately resulted from

these efforts were significant and far-reaching.

"Ralph's dedication and commitment to the New England District and to its staff ensured that these conversions did not adversely impact the District's day-to-day or long-term financial operations," read the nomination. "His leadership and vision enhanced the quality of the work environment, well-being and morale of all those who were assigned throughout the years to the Finance and Accounting Office."

The criteria for the Gallery is very strict. An individual must have served at least 30 years in federal government service, of which at least 20 were served with the Corps of Engineers. The nominee must be retired for at least six months before being considered for nomination.

Nominees need to be clearly exceptional in the performance of certain activities amongst their peers who over the years have performed similar activities within the organization; or/and may have developed prescribed standards or measures that have set the standard and are being used by either the New England District or across the Corps of Engineers.

A nominee must have contributed substantially to the reputation of our District and the Corps of Engineers as well as have performed loyally and faithfully throughout their many years of service. Retirees can be nominated by anyone from

anywhere in the organization, as long as they meet the guidelines.

Although it is rare, the District Engineer may waive some criteria for a nominee if special circumstances arise.

A large portrait of Mallardo will hang in a place of honor for one year before his photo is permanently added to the Distinguished Civilian Gallery.



Photo by C.J. Allen

*Ralph Mallardo, 2005 Distinguished Civilian Gallery inductee, and his wife, Karen.*



# Founder's Day Photo Album

## June 24, 2005



*Heather Sullivan plays with daughter, Hannah, during the Founder's Day picnic.*



*Joe Bocchino, Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson and Col. Thomas Koning chat under the ceremonial tent.*



*The Hugh Family enjoy the swings at Castle Park.*



*Richalie Griffith sports the fun fashion of balloon wear during the picnic.*



*Nathan Rigione enjoys a game of croquet.*



*Cheryl Kassoy and daughter, Jaelyn, play in the sand.*

Photos by C.J. Allen



*Jerry Stalder (left) demonstrates to Joan Gardner and son, Christopher, the proper way to apply a temporary tattoo.*



## Founder's Day Album

### June 24, 2005



*Water games kept children cool during the picnic.*



*Members of Regulatory Division hang out together and enjoy the day.*



*District employees get beverages from the drink line during the picnic.*



*Members of Resource Management congratulate Ralph Mallardo on his induction to the Distinguished Civilian Gallery.*



*Bob Meader tries to keep cool under the ceremonial tent during the picnic.*



*Jerry Stalder works the WE Committee store.*



# Dedicating success

## Officials cut ribbon on Quechee Gorge Visitor Center

Federal, state, and local officials gathered together for the dedication and grand opening of the long-awaited Quechee Gorge Visitor Center.

The event took place June 23 at New England District's North Hartland Lake, and included the raising of the flags, a ribbon cutting and words from guest speakers, followed by a reception and building tours.

The Quechee Gorge Visitor Center was many years in the making. "In November 2003, we broke ground on this fantastic project as a direct result of the vision of many of the people you see here today, working diligently in close cooperation over the course of 14 years," said Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer. "This visitor center will provide a gateway to the wonderful natural resource that is Quechee Gorge and the Ottauquechee River Valley."

The visitor center includes interpretive displays that explain the geological history of the Gorge to its current status as a critical component of the flood protection network in the Connecticut

River Basin. The center also provides information on the varied and diverse recreational opportunities in the region, as well as travel and business information for the local communities.

"The Quechee Gorge Visitor Center was a Challenge Cost Agreement," said Mark Wilmes, Project Manager for North Hartland Lake/Union Village Dam. "It was truly a group effort without the help of all stakeholders the project would never have been completed. District employees were there from the beginning to produce the Master Plan, identifying the major challenges in and around the site. These include the lack of any public sanitary facilities, inadequate parking, and potential for serious accidents between heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The District also came up with the additional money needed to cover the cost of the low bid. During the last 15 months of construction District employees attended meetings for the construction and interpretive displays."

Other speakers who had a significant part in the finished visitor's center were

Lori Hirshfield, town of Hartford, Director of Planning and Development Services; Jon Bacon, Chairman, Quechee Gorge Management Committee; Jonathan Wood, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; Charles Basner, Vermont Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; Ted Brady, representing Sen. Patrick Leahy's Office; and Vermont Governor James Douglas.

"The Army Corps of Engineers is proud to be a part of this multi-agency, diverse group that has supported this important effort," said Lt. Col. Nelson. "Being a careful steward of the natural resources entrusted to our care while partnering with other federal, state, and local agencies is an operating principle for us."

Work on the \$2.5 million project included associated site and site utility work, excavation, backfilling, grading, seeding, planting, construction of parking lot and driveway complete with curbs, pavement marking and signage and including a special crosswalk extending from the visitor center northerly across Route 4.

The work also included construction of concrete sidewalk, landings and patio area, wooden stairs, railing, Stone retaining wall, storm drains, water and wastewater piping and pumping stations and leachfield as well as site electrical utilities and other site furnishings.

Other components of the project include trail system improvements; new water main installation, new curb and sidewalk construction along the north side of Route 4.

The Deputy District Engineer also thanked Mark Wilmes, Roxanne Barbeau and Heather Morse of North Hartland Lake and Union Village Dam for assisting the community on this project.



Photo by Brian Murphy

*Partnering stakeholders join Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson (center) in cutting the ribbon to officially open the Quechee Gorge Visitor Center.*

# Patriotic Cube Contest

## WE Committee's annual event inspired fun, imagination

by Ann Marie R. Harvie  
Public Affairs

*A contest held at the New England District headquarters inspired laughs, fun and a lot of patriotism from those who participated and those who viewed from the sidelines.*

The WE Committee's annual Patriotic Cube Contest, held June 29, brought with it a sense of competition from the contestants and anticipation from the employees at the District.

District employees could be seen going back and forth to the competitor's cubicles and giving their own evaluations on who would win.

Some District employees who chose not to decorate their cubicles got into the spirit of the day by wearing patriotic t-shirts and other garb.

Last year's champions Engineering/Planning Division continued the tradition of patriotic excellence not only by decorating cubicles, but the outside reception area as well. Team Leader Angela Wright wanted tasteful, not gaudy to be the team's decorating rule. "My inspiration was to just have fun with it, keep it simple and not to overkill with the flags and stars," she said. "I tried to have a variety with the different objects that were used."

No detail was too small for this team – the competitors tastefully draped the area in red, white, and blue decorations; patriotic music filled the air; the scent of freshly baked goods, decorated with the proper patriotic colors, wafted through the entire District; "fireworks" were displayed on computer terminals; and last but not least, Patrick Blumeris dressed in a military uniform and stood at attention for the voting. The decorating team consisted of Wright, Jo-Ann Dawber, Donna Terrio, Dot Tinkham, Patrick Blumeris, Laurie Levesque, Ella

Minincleri, and Elaine Law.

Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, Deputy District Engineer, served as judge for the contest and praised the Engineering/Planning group for their theme and team effort. "Engineering and Planning continue to outdo themselves," he said of the office. The fresh cherry and blueberry cake was absolutely delicious and was the 'frosting on the cake' of the great display of patriotism! Brig. Gen. Patrick was a fun addition, too."

When Engineering/Planning threw down the gauntlet for the competition, the Public Affairs Office was quick to pick it up and run. The District spin doctors didn't want to just decorate the office with red, white and blue. They had a vision – they asked themselves, "what does the Fourth of July mean to me?"

The answer was – party at the beach! But not just any party – a Patriotic beach party. When Public Affairs finished decorating their office, it looked like "Beach Blanket Bingo" meets "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Patriotic beach blankets and pillows were laid as if they were on the sand; a beach umbrella kept the "sun" out of everyone's eyes so they could keep an eye on the food being cooked on the grill.

A Patriotic beach party would not be complete without pretend fireworks, flags, a kite, two coolers, board games, and the movie, "Jaws" mutely playing in the background as the singing Massachusetts State Trooper belted out "God Bless America" on the radio.

Patriotic cookies and cupcakes were on hand next to the patriotic picnic basket for dessert. Sally Rigione led the decorating team. Kim Pumyea, Tim Dugan, and Larry Rosenberg rounding out the crew.

After much consideration, Lt. Col. Nelson deemed Public Affairs the winners in the team category. "PAO's beach party theme was the tie-breaker," he



*Either the Public Affairs decorated the office in a beach theme for the Patriotic Cubicle Contest and took first place for the group effort, or it was just business as usual at the PAO.*



explained. "They had everything from the sand to potato salad. The singing state policeman stirred my patriotic spirit! It was a great theme and a great team effort."

In the individual cubicle competition, Zina Cassulo-Henderson, Regulatory, scored high marks for her Americana theme. Small, delicate dolls and paper decorations were carefully and tastefully placed in her area. Her "less is more" decorating style earned her a respectable second place.

First place in the individual category was Mary Christopher, Information Management, who handmade every decoration in her cubicle. Red, white, and blue star garland was strung around her space; a patriotic airplane with the Corps logo floated wistfully in the air with the help of a little string; an Uncle Sam bobblehead proudly displayed under a picture of Christopher's nephew, Maj. Alexander J. Chotkowski, USMC (Support Company Commander).

"I enjoyed using stars in different sizes with the blue, white and red color scheme," she said. "I cut them all out by hand and I made the star mobile using yarn and stringing it up in my cubicle."

Christopher's home-made patriotism made a big impression with the judge. "Mary's originality was fantastic!" said Lt. Col. Nelson. "Homemade, creative decorations get bonus points from me! Mary's picture of her nephew, a major in the Marine Corps who is deployed to Iraq added extra Patriotic bonus points."

Talk of next year's competition is already buzzing through the halls of Concord Park. Engineering/Planning vow to get their Number One standing back, but Public Affairs will not easily give up the title. Christopher and Cassulo-Henderson might battle it out again next year, but talk of a dark horse (Joan Gardner, Construction/Operations) entry could shake things up a bit.

The competition is open to all New England District employees, to include field personnel, so start planning for next year!



*Contest judge Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson, admires Mary Christopher's handmade decorations.*



*Engineering/Planning employees showed off their true colors during the cubicle contest.*



*Zina Cassulo-Henderson's delicate decorations took second place in the cubicle contest.*

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## Survey Section hosts National Prospect Class

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by Maureen Murray  
Survey Section



Photos by Bill Walker

*The New England District's Survey Section hosted the Hydrographic Survey Techniques Prospect Class June 20-24 in Plymouth, Mass. This year marked the first time the class has ever been held in New England.*

The class included a one-day field demonstration in which three New England District survey boats took participants around Plymouth Harbor for an equipment demonstration. While class participants waited their turn to go out on to the boats, Steve Johnston, Maureen Murray and Bill Walker answered questions about the equipment and types of surveys the New England District Survey Section performs.

Following the equipment segment, the group broke up into a morning and afternoon session for a field demonstration. This presentation included the multibeam hydrographic system operated by Jeff Preston, Tim Maynard and Barry Sullivan. Other portions of the demonstration included a hydrographic system with an automatic tide gage operated by Bob MacGovern, Mike Vadnais and Adrien Lussier and side scan sonar system operated by Paul

O'Brien and Fred Perry.

When asked for comments, members of the class indicated that they were impressed with the variety and number of hydrographic projects that are New England District's responsibility. A majority of the class had never been to New England and enjoyed the seaside setting.

Preparation for holding the class took about two years. The requirements to be able to hold the class were strict: the hotel that class participants would be staying in had to accommodate at least 40 people; the location had to be within walking distance to the water, accessible to an airport, and have close docking space to secure three survey vessels.

Maureen Murray, Bill Walker and Dan Bradley of New England District's Survey Section organized the class and took care of all the arrangements that made the event a success.



*Tim Maynard (right) prepares to launch while crew chief Jeff Preston prepares to take people aboard. Above: Tim Maynard lowers the mount for the multibeam system and explains its use to Richard Entwisle and Mike Sullivan.*



# Park Rangers participate in Coldbrook Springs Village dedication ceremony

Story and photo by Delia Vogel  
Barre Falls Dam

The Oakham, Massachusetts Historical Commission unveiled a granite monument in remembrance of the lost village of Coldbrook Springs and to honor the sacrifices of the men and women who lived there on June 18.

A crowd of 100 gathered at the former village to hear Massachusetts Senator Stephen Brewer, State Representatives Lewis Evangelidis and Anne Gobi, author J. R. Greene, representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, and Frank Potter, former resident tell the history of Coldbrook Springs and the work it took to bring the monument to fruition.

The site selected for the monument is on Corps property adjacent to a borrow area (gravel pit) where material was removed to build the dam. Material is still removed from the borrow area to maintain the historic roads.

After the ceremony, Oakham historian Wes Dwelly gave a historical walking tour at several of the remaining foundations.

Coldbrook Springs, a thriving village resort, settled in 1748, and was located at the junction of Route 122 and Coldbrook Road. Although it only consisted 35 homes and a population of 100, Coldbrook Springs was famous for its "healing" natural springs.

Tourists from near and far came to partake of the reputed medical powers of the mineral springs.

Dubbed "pure from nature's laboratory," the springs were used to treat rheumatism, gout, diabetes, constipation, and those diseases "peculiar to women." The village also provided food and lodging to the families of prisoners at Rutland Prison Camp, a self-sustaining working farm located a few miles from the center of Coldbrook Springs.

Located about 30 minutes northwest of Worcester, Coldbrook Springs flourished as the center of today's town of Oakham until the need to provide a water supply to



*Surviving children of Nellie Potter, Gas Station/General Store Owner in Coldbrook Springs pose for a picture near the new monument.*

the growing Boston area population caused the village to be razed when the land was acquired for the Quabbin Reservoir project. By the 1930s, every building in Coldbrook Springs Village was either torn down or moved.

Unlike the towns flooded for the Quabbin Reservoir, Coldbrook Springs remained largely forgotten until the 1990s when the Oakham Historical Commission began to document the history of the village. Historian Wes Dwelly has volunteered hundreds of hours at Barre Falls Dam to map the sites and study the history of the Ware River Watershed.

With his work at Coldbrook Springs Village almost finished, he is now focusing his attention on the historic properties that made up the former village of Barre Falls, which is now the site of Barre Falls Dam.

Corps park rangers Rick Magee, Delia Vogel, Richard Kristoff, and Hilary Swartz assisted with site preparation, parking, handing out programs, conducting off-the-cuff interpretation, and cleanup.



*Village of Coldbrook Springs*



*Photos of Coldbrook Springs have been provided by the Oakham Historical Commission.*

# Local student wins ribbon for Canal project

by William Kavanaugh, Sr.  
New England District retiree

For a recent school project, Patrick Fay of the Northbridge, Mass. Middle School, fifth grade chose to work on and present a representation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal.

His focus was on the need of the canal, when it was first thought of, the beginning of construction by a private enterprise and then to its subsequent ownership, the federal government, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For his efforts, Fay was awarded the second place red ribbon distinction. The project included a graphic display of the canal, various photographs, a written sequence of canal events from the first days of its inception to its present status and a final oral presentation to the school's evaluation committee.

Fay, along with his mother and father, visited the canal where they were welcomed graciously by Corps Park Ranger Samantha Mirabella. Mirabella was a great hostess to Fay, taking her time to go over the history of the Canal.



(above) Fay took second place for his presentation of the Cape Cod Canal. (right) The project came complete with a miniature replica of the canal.



(from left) William Kavanaugh, Sr., Patrick Fay and William Kavanaugh, Jr. stand by Fay's Cape Cod Canal school project.

Fay asked her many questions which she answered with great enthusiasm. She was very instrumental in helping young Fay in looking for information from various sources including the Internet and with supplying him with written information supplied by the Army Corps of Engineers. A tour of the canal's headquarters and explanation of the daily operations, including a boat ride, followed at the end of Fay's interview.

A special thanks to Mirabella for all her efforts and also thanks to Canal Chief Fran Donovan and staff for always taking the time to accommodate

retirees, present day employees and the public. They are a great group of people.

Fay is the son of Lisa (Kavanaugh) and Gerald Fay. He is also the grandson of Corps of Engineers retiree Bill Kavanaugh, Sr., and the nephew of present Corps employee Bill Kavanaugh, Jr.

Fay often talks of working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers some day in the future. He may just do that because Kavanaugh, Jr., like Fay, also presented a project of the Cape Cod Canal for his science fair when he was a student in the middle school.



Pictures provided by William Kavanaugh, Sr.



# Outreach program a big hit with local students

As part of the Cape Cod Canal School Outreach Program, Sacred Heart Elementary School from Kingston, Mass., arrived for their field trip, May 26, to view the Canal and the operations at the Ship Traffic Control Center.

The students also got a tour of the Corps of Engineers tugboat, "Manomet." After the vessel tour, the children split into four teams and participated in a learning game called, "Tugs to the Rescue."

Canal Park Ranger Roger Hagen, who organized the field trip, has been coordinating the Cape Cod Canal School Outreach Program for the last 22 years. Park Rangers receive approximately 2,000 students each year at the Canal Field Headquarters prior to the daily visitation schedule of programs that begin in July.

A new visitor's center opened at the Canal this past spring. Other recreational programs include bike hikes, walks, tours, and evening presentations. For more information on the Canal's upcoming activities, please go to <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/cc/ccchome.htm>



*Sacred Heart Elementary School children pose in front Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge. (Photo by Kevin Burke)*

## District team hosts New England Trail Builders School 2005

**By Jamie Kordack,  
Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village Dam**

The idea began in October 2004 when as speaking guests at New England District's annual Ranger Conference, New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) Executive Director, Philip Keyes and NEMBA's Blackstone Valley rep., Rich Kordell discussed current partnerships with Corps projects and the possibility of more involvement between the Mountain Bike Association and our sites.

Over the weekend of May 21 - 22, mountain bikers and trail builders from every state in New England descended upon the Hodges Village Dam in Oxford, Mass., for an intensive work hard/ play hard weekend course on trail building and maintenance.

Instructors included recent Mountain Bike Hall of Famer, Kurt Loheit, from southern California, the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)/Subaru Trail Care Crew from Portland, Oregon, Jill Van Winkle and Chris Bernhard, and NEMBA's trail experts, Tom Grimble, Paul Peaslee and Mike Tabaczynski.

The first half of the day introduced new trail concepts in an exceptional classroom presentation by IMBA's Trail Care Crew. Following lunch, trail builders chose one of three clinics to focus on the different construction techniques. Continuing the same three clinics on Sunday, over 50 participants executed four basic projects: using block and tackle to move two-ton boulders to build a technical trail features called a rock ramp; construction of a 20 foot wooden boardwalk through an environmentally sensitive wetland; participants designed and built a quarter-mile trail along a steep esker embankment that required extensive bench cutting and rock cribbing in order to bypass one of the worst cases of fall line trail in the park; and rehabilitated that fall line trail to alleviate the worst of the erosion.

Students were invited to camp on-site adjacent to the dam and Park Ranger Jamie Kordack spent some time with them, kicking back late into the night at the campfire. Even after a hard first day of work, the volunteers were energized and happy to be working and learning.

"The New England Mountain Bike Association is at the forefront of trail building," said Keyes. "This training will give rise to better trails being created

throughout the region. This is good for everyone, trail users and land management agencies alike."

Many of the attendees will return to their local areas and apply their trail knowledge to better their local parks. Project Manager Tim Russell estimated the weekend event provided about 600 hours of volunteer trail work worth about \$12,000, plus another \$2,000 in construction material. "I'm not surprised by this accomplishment", said Kordack. "NEMBA's Blackstone Chapter President, Rich Kordell, a longtime volunteer and Hodges Village Environmental Education Association supporter has been a great help to us Rangers for years. Any event we plan together is always a success!"

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Recreational Trail Program Grant, assisted by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, funded the course.

Said Keyes, "Hodges Village Dam was the good "laboratory" for applying the latest science of trail design and maintenance because it is a multiuse facility enjoyed extensively by motorcyclists, equestrians, trail runners, hikers and cyclists."

# Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

*Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades, North Atlantic Division Engineer, presents Col. Thomas Koning with the New England District command flag during the District's Change of Command ceremony, July 19, 2002.*

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